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OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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IO/PHO: RGLOFTIS:RGL  
08/18/94 647-2708 SEPKA 877  
P: MR. TARNOFF

IO: GWARD  
PM/ISP: PSUTER  
EAP/ANZ: LMCCALL  
NSC: ASENS, S/S: MNROBINSON, EUR/NE: MLEKSON  
AF/C: RFENDRICK P: ESWICKER  
OSD/PK/PE: MGREENSPON  
JCS: GEN. CROSS S/S-0: RSROBINSON

IMMEDIATE USUN NEW YORK, LONDON IMMEDIATE, CANBERRA IMMEDIATE  
OTTAWA IMMEDIATE  
PRIORITY PARIS, ACCRA PRIORITY, ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY, SECDEF  
WASHDC PRIORITY, CJCS PRIORITY, KINSHASA PRIORITY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MARR, UN, RW, UNAMIR

SUBJECT: UNAMIR - REPLACING THE FRENCH FORCES IN THE  
SAFETY ZONE

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE - PLEASE SEE PARA 4.

3. ALTHOUGH WE CONTINUE TO URGE THE FRENCH TO REMAIN IN THE SAFETY ZONE AND THE NEW RWANDAN GOVERNMENT TO REQUEST A CONTINUING FRENCH PRESENCE, THE FRENCH APPEAR COMMITTED TO REMOVING MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THEIR FORCES BY AUGUST 22 AND THE RWANDANS HAVE REBUFFED OUR ARGUMENTS. GHANAIAN AND ETHIOPIAN TROOPS HAVE MOVED TO FILL THE GAP, AND THE UN EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO REPLACE THE FRENCH MAN-FOR-MAN. HOWEVER, MANY OF THE RWANDAN DISPLACED PERSONS STILL APPEAR LESS TRUSTFUL OF THE UNAMIR FORCES THAN OF THE FRENCH FORCES THEY ARE REPLACING. PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT INTENDS TO ASSERT ITS SOVEREIGNTY IN THE SAFETY ZONE ONCE THE FRENCH LEAVE, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, THAT UNAMIR COMMIT TO AS LARGE AND VISIBLY EFFECTIVE BLUE HELMET AND WHITE VEHICLE PRESENCE THROUGHOUT THE THE ZONE

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2

AS POSSIBLE, IN AN EFFORT TO HELP REASSURE THE RWANDANS AND PREVENT ANOTHER MASS EXODUS INTO ZAIRE.

4. ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO APPROPRIATE UN/HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS:

-- THE FRENCH FORCES HAVE PERFORMED AN INVALUABLE SERVICE IN STABILIZING THE SITUATION IN SOUTHWEST RWANDA. WE HAVE ASKED THEM TO REMAIN BEHIND IN SOME FORM AGREEABLE TO BOTH THE GOF AND THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT. WE ARE ALL GRATEFUL FOR THEIR CONTINUING EFFORTS.

-- WITH THE ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL OF FRENCH FORCES BY AUGUST 22, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT UNAMIR FORCES BE READY TO REPLACE THE FRENCH WITHOUT A GAP. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GHANAIS AND ETHIOPIANS ALREADY HAVE BEGUN TO DO SO AND THAT THE FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN CONTINGENTS OF OPERATION TURQUOISE ARE ALSO REMAINING BEHIND.

-- NEVERTHELESS, RWANDAN DISPLACED PERSONS HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE THE SAME LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE IN UNAMIR AS THEY HAVE HAD IN THE FRENCH.

-- IN ORDER TO REASSURE THE POPULATION OF THE SAFETY ZONE AND TO PREVENT ANOTHER MASS EXODUS INTO ZAIRE, WE THINK IT IMPORTANT UNAMIR MAXIMIZE ITS PRESENCE IN THE ZONE, INVOLVING ELEMENTS FROM ALL COUNTRY CONTINGENTS. THIS WILL HELP TO CONVINCE THE RWANDANS OF THE CONTINUING WIDE INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN THEIR SECURITY.

-- EVEN THE PRESENCE OF LOGISTICAL AND OTHER NON-COMBAT FORCES COULD HELP BOLSTER THE CONFIDENCE OF REFUGEE AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS.

[FOR USUN] WE URGE THAT THE UN ASK ALL TROOP CONTRIBUTORS TO ALLOW SOME OF THEIR FORCES INTO S.W. RWANDA.

[FOR CANBERRA, OTTAWA, LONDON] WE WOULD HOPE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WOULD AGREE TO ALLOW THE USE OF SOME OF YOUR FORCES IN S.W. RWANDA IF SO REQUESTED BY THE UN.

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